

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 1494

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, CU, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY INQUIRES ABOUT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
IN US-CUBAN RELATIONS

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS (MINREZ) DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS (ZAMORA) CALLED IN ACTING USINT CHIEF, JUNE 1, FOR DISCUSSION OF MINOR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER (SEPTTEL). REAL PURPOSE OF SUMMONS, HOWEVER, APPEARED TO BE DESIRE TO QUERY USINT ON NEXT MOVES IN US-CUBAN RELATIONS. ZAMORA'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN WAS WHETHER CURRENT US CRITICISM OF CUBA'S AFRICAN POLICY IS ONLY TRANSITORY AND WHETHER US INTENDS TO CLOSE INTERESTS SECTIONS IN HAVANA AND WASHINGTON.

2. ON FORMER POINT, ACTING USINT CHIEF TOLD ZAMORA THAT: A) CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN AFRICA IS OBVIOUSLY OF CENTRAL CONCERN IN WASHINGTON, B) CUBAN LEADERSHIP, AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT STATEMENTS, SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY DOUBTS ON THIS POINT, AND C) CUBANS SHOULD NOT MISTAKE PERIODIC DIFFERENT EMPHASIS IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK STATEMENTS AS EVIDENCE THAT ADMINISTRATION IS NOT COMMITTED TO SEEKING CUBAN TROOP WITHDRAWALS.

3. ON INTERESTS SECTION CLOSING, ACTING USINT CHIEF STATED THAT NO INSTRUCTIONS HAVE YET BEEN RECEIVED ON REDUCING
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OR CLOSING INTERESTS SECTIONS. HOPES WAS EXPRESSED BY ACTING USINT CHIEF THAT MINREX WOULD DO ITS UTMOST TO ENSURE THAT USINT COULD PURSUE ITS OPERATIONS SUCCESSFULLY HERE AND THAT LONG-DELAYED APPOINTMENTS WITH CUBAN OFFICIALS WOULD BE GRANTED. ZAMORA STATED THAT CUBANS HAVE WORKED HARD TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH US AND THAT RECEPTION OF LYLE LANE BY FIDEL CASTRO AND CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ WAS EVIDENCE OF THIS.

HE ASSERTED, IN CONTRACT, THAT NEITHER SECRETARY VANCE NOR PRESIDENT CARTER HAS EVER RECEIVED CUBAN INTERESTS SECTION CHIEF RAMON SANCHEZ PARODI. ACTING USINT CHIEF STATED THAT LANE'S MEETINGS, ALBEIT INFREQUENT, WERE APPRECIATED , BUT WHAT IS NEEDED IS CONTINUOUS, ACCURATE COMMUNICATION OF CUBAN POSITIONS AND INTENTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN CRISIS AREAS SUCH AS AFRICA.

4. ZAMORA ALLOWED THAT ATTACK ON DR. BRZEZINSKI (REFTEL) HAD COME AS SURPRISE TO MINREX PERSONNEL, ALTHOUGH SOME RESPONSE HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO US ADMINISTRATION STATEMENTS ON CUBA. ZAMORA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHO WROTE THE ATTACK, BUT SAID THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IT WAS AUTHORIZED AT HIGHEST CUBAN LEVELS. HE SCOFFED AT IDEA THAT SOVIETS HAD AUTHORED PIECE.

5. AS AN ASIDE, ZAMORA STATED THAT CUBAN VICE-PRESIDENT CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ WOULD PROBABLY BE RETURNING TO HAVANA FROM US SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT ON WEEKEND OF JUNE 3-4.
GLASSMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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